

## EXHIBIT A

**QUARTERLY POST-CONFIRMATION REPORT OF  
GEOFFREY L. BERMAN, TRUSTEE  
USACM LIQUIDATING TRUST**

**October 2008**

**USACM Liquidating Trust**  
Geoffrey L. Berman, Trustee  
Matthew P. Sorenson  
Email: gberman@dsi.biz  
msorenson@dsi.biz  
**Development Specialists, Inc.**  
333 South Grand Avenue, Suite 4070  
Los Angeles, CA 90071-1544  
Facsimile: (213) 617-2718  
Telephone: (213) 617-2717

**Lewis and Roca LLP**  
Rob Charles  
Susan M. Freeman  
Email: RCharles@LRLaw.com  
3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169-5996  
Facsimile: (702) 949-8321  
Telephone: (702) 949-8320  
Attorneys for the USACM Liquidating  
Trust

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**REPORT OF GEOFFREY L. BERMAN, TRUSTEE  
USACM LIQUIDATING TRUST**

**July 2008**

As Trustee, I have continued to focus the efforts of the USACM Liquidating Trust (the “Trust”) during July 2008 through September 2008 on:

- administration of the Trust;
- efficient conclusion of the USA Commercial Mortgage Company (“USACM”) estate;
- investigation, prosecution and settlement of causes of action against potential recovery targets;
- collection of other assets;
- claims analysis and resolution of disputed claims; and
- Placer loan servicing issues.

These and other topics are briefly described in this report, along with comments on the financial statement of the Trust as of September 30, 2008.<sup>1</sup>

**I. TRUST ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Website**

The Trust’s website address is: <http://usacmcucc.bmcgroup.com>. We invite your suggestions for content on the Trust’s website.

**B. Oversight Committee**

The Trust functions with an Oversight Committee created by the Plan and the Trust Agreement. Charles Hainsworth, Donald Walker, James Bonfiglio, Michael Tucker (in his capacity as Administrator of the USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC (“DTDF”)), and Suzanne Nounna, were the members of the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee met on July 21, 2008 to discuss the status of the Trust, the Trustee’s prior quarterly reports, and other issues.<sup>2</sup> Thereafter, Mr. Hainsworth resigned from the Oversight Committee (upon his retirement from Nevada State Bank) and Janet

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<sup>1</sup> The Trust’s financial statement is provided only to the Office of the United States Trustee and the Trust Oversight Committee.

<sup>2</sup> The next Oversight Committee meeting was October 23, 2008.

Chubb and Ken Bonnet, a client representative from the Kehl family, agreed to serve jointly on the Committee. Regular communication between the Trust and the Oversight Committee members is maintained by telephone calls and e-mails.

### C. Trust Staff

The Trustee is employed by Development Specialists, Inc. (“DSI”).<sup>3</sup> The Trustee uses DSI staff to administer the Trust, investigate the assets and liabilities of the Trust, and to support the litigation described below.

In addition, and as has previously been reported, the Trustee selected Rob Charles<sup>4</sup> and Susan M. Freeman<sup>5</sup> of Lewis and Roca LLP, prior counsel to the USACM Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, as its counsel. Other attorneys at that firm assist the Trust as well, including John Hinderaker, who directs claims and other Trust specific litigation.<sup>6</sup>

Separate litigation counsel, Allan Diamond<sup>7</sup> and Bill Reid<sup>8</sup> of Diamond McCarthy LLP, Houston, TX, was selected by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors and approved by the Court in January 2007, whose retention was assumed by the Trust upon the Effective Date of the Plan and the Trust.

The Trust retained Arthur Swicker, Swicker & Associates, Encino, California to prepare the Trust’s annual tax return.

One of the expenditures incurred by the Trust is Professional Liability Errors & Omissions Insurance Coverage for Geoffrey L. Berman, in his capacity as Trustee of the Trust. The Trust bears this expense as an ordinary post-confirmation expense. The Oversight Committee elected not to incur the additional expense of such insurance for the Oversight Committee members, as there is no legitimate argument that the Oversight Committee members could have liability to any third party.

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<sup>3</sup> Information about Mr. Berman is available from the DSI website at <http://www.dsi.biz/onestaff.asp?id=39>.

<sup>4</sup> Information about Mr. Charles is available from the Lewis and Roca LLP website at [http://www.lrlaw.com/professional\\_bio.asp?ProfessionalID=165](http://www.lrlaw.com/professional_bio.asp?ProfessionalID=165).

<sup>5</sup> Information about Ms. Freeman is available from the Lewis and Roca LLP website at [http://www.lrlaw.com/professional\\_bio.asp?ProfessionalID=92](http://www.lrlaw.com/professional_bio.asp?ProfessionalID=92).

<sup>6</sup> Information about Mr. Hinderaker is available from the Lewis and Roca LLP website at [http://www.lewisandroca.com/professional\\_bio.asp?ProfessionalID=369](http://www.lewisandroca.com/professional_bio.asp?ProfessionalID=369).

<sup>7</sup> Information about Mr. Diamond is available from the Diamond McCarthy website at <http://www.diamondmccarthy.com/adiamond.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Information about Mr. Reid is available from the Diamond McCarthy website at <http://www.diamondmccarthy.com/wreid.html>.

#### **D. BMC Access to Court Docket**

The Trust has paid the monthly expense charged by BMC to maintain public access to the docket of the USACM jointly administered bankruptcy cases. While those dockets, and the associated claim information, are available to the public for a fee through PACER, the Trust believes that the Court and creditors are better served by the Trust bearing that expense, for the time being.

### **II. PLAN OF REORGANIZATION ISSUES**

#### **A. Confirmation Order Appeals**

The sole remaining appeal (by Debt Acquisition Company of America V, LLC (“DACA”)) from the Confirmation Order, which was affirmed by the United States District Court, District of Nevada, remains pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit at Case No. 07-16796. The final brief was filed and served by April 29, 2008. The parties await action by the Ninth Circuit.

### **III. USACM ISSUES**

USACM continued to wind up its affairs and file monthly reports of those efforts with the bankruptcy court. USACM has been dissolved under Nevada law, with Thomas Allison of Mesirow responsible for winding up its affairs. USACM continues to hold certain reserves under the confirmed Plan, including amounts discussed in this report.

The Trust continued to monitor the liquidation of USACM under the direction of Mr. Allison and its pre-effective date counsel. USACM files periodic operating reports disclosing its status of assets and liabilities, payments and obligations incurred. USACM also holds reserves for certain unresolved claims as well as unresolved expenses of administration.

USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC was wound up by its counsel and financial advisors. Its funds were distributed pro rata to allowed expenses of administration and then the entity’s bankruptcy case was closed. The entity was terminated under applicable law as well.

### **IV. INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST POTENTIAL TARGET DEFENDANTS**

Diamond McCarthy as special litigation counsel, has actively conducted formal and informal discovery of files, witnesses and transactions since its informal engagement in January 2007, which was formalized once the plan went effective in March 2007. The goals are to develop and then prosecute causes of action against insiders and third parties to recover damages for the benefit of creditors. In addition, special litigation counsel has sought to identify assets diverted by insiders and their affiliates so that the assets can be recovered to obtain payment for creditors. Diamond McCarthy is coordinating those

efforts with others, including DTDF, the USA Investment Partners, LLC (“USAIP”) Trustee, and the Trustees for Hantges and Milanowski mentioned below. Many witnesses have been deposed or interviewed and many thousands of pages of documents have been reviewed. Further, Diamond McCarthy is coordinating efforts with various federal and state Governmental agencies, including the FBI, U.S. Attorney’s Office for Las Vegas, and the SEC.

The Trust had the benefit of a two-year tolling period under Bankruptcy Code § 108 to bring many claims and causes of action owned by USACM on the date of its bankruptcy filing. The two-year anniversary of the bankruptcy filing was April 13, 2008. The Trust filed numerous causes of action before this deadline. Lawsuits were filed against the following:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Defendant</u>
08-01114	Shober Consulting, Inc.
08-01115	Bob Stupak
08-01116	Greenwald, Pauly, Foster & Miller
08-01117	David Rentz
08-01118	Jerry Cadeski
08-01119	Robert A. Russell; Deborah Russell; Russell A. Development Group, LLC; Freeway 101 Investors, LLC; Freeway 101 Loop RAR Investment, LLC; Boise/Gowen, LLC; BG/93 Investments, LLC; Copper Sage Commerce Center, LLC; Der NV Invesco, LLC; SVRB Investments, LLC
08-01120	Gentile De Palma Ltd. <sup>9</sup>
08-01121	Fertitta Enterprises, Inc.
08-01122	J.M.K Investments, Ltd., John M. Keilly, Mountain West Mortgage LLC
08-01123	Fiesta Development, Inc., Asbusa, LLC, Random Developments, LLC, Richard K. Ashby
08-01124	Homes for America Holdings, Inc.; HFAH Clearlake, LLC; One Point Street Inc.; Mediterranee-HFAH, LLC

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<sup>9</sup> On August 5, 2008, the Trust amended its complaint.

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Defendant</u>
08-01125	Monaco Diversified Corporation; Anthony Monaco; Susan K. Monaco; Eagle Ranch Residential, LLC; Eagle Ranch, LLC; Willowbrook Residential, LLC; Brentwood 128, LLC; Ravenswood Apple Valley, LLC
08-01126	James Cioffi Architect Corporation
08-01127	Amesbury Port Corporation
08-01128	K&S Properties (Minden) <sup>10</sup>
08-01129	Tanamera Resort Partners, LLC
08-01130	Phillips USA LLC
08-01131	Bingham McCuthcheon, LLP
08-01132	Stanley E. Fulton <sup>11</sup>
08-01133	Kathryn L. Petersen; Kathryn L. Petersen Living Trust; KLP Trust dated 7/15/99; Specialized Development Tahoe, LLC <sup>12</sup>
08-01134	Mary Petersen; Mary Petersen Family Trust dated 8/12/98; Michael D. Petersen; Michael D. Petersen Family Trust dated 8/12/98; Kathryn L. Petersen; Kathryn L. Petersen Living Trust; KLP Trust dated 7/15/99 <sup>13</sup>
08-01135	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. <sup>14</sup>
08-01164	Beedle, McBride, Evans & Reeves, LLP; Reeves, Evans, McBride & Zhang, LLP; TG McBride, CPA Ltd.; T. Garth McBride <sup>15</sup>
08-0112-0	David A. Fogg <sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> After investigation, the Trust sought dismissal of the adversary proceeding against K&S Properties, adversary No. 08-1128. The stipulation for dismissal was filed in August 2008 and granted by the Court thereafter.

<sup>11</sup> Plaintiff is DTDF.

<sup>12</sup> Plaintiff is DTDF.

<sup>13</sup> Plaintiffs are the Trust and DTDF.

<sup>14</sup> Plaintiffs are the Trust, DTDF and FTDF. This is not an avoidance action.

<sup>15</sup> Plaintiffs are the Trust and DTDF.

<sup>16</sup> Plaintiffs are the Trust and DTDF.

Additionally, a complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, as follows:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Plaintiffs</u>	<u>Defendants</u>
2:08-CV-461	Trust and DTDF	Deloitte & Touche, LLP; Victoria Loob

These actions are being prosecuted in order to recover funds for the Trust beneficiaries and DTDF.

The Trust also prosecuted an adversary proceeding against JMK Investments et al. as explained below.

The Trust and DTDF also entered into what are known as “tolling agreements” with a number of potential targets before the deadline for bringing action. In essence, a tolling agreement allows the Trust to take more time to investigate possible causes of action and hopefully negotiate settlement of any claims against the potential targets before filing suit. The relevant limitations period is tolled during the pendency of the tolling agreement. For confidentiality and other reasons, to encourage settlement and to protect potential targets about whom the Trust may not have sufficient information to bring an action at this time, the Trust is not disclosing the identity of the persons and entities with whom it has entered into tolling agreements except now in a few instances where the efforts of Diamond McCarthy, the Trust and DTDF, have resulted in settlement of the claims raised by the Trust and DTDF against those particular third parties and where bankruptcy court approval of the settlement is pending.

The Trustee’s direction to counsel was to prosecute the actions described above in the most expeditious, cost-effective manner, while seeking reasonable settlement with our without the formal assistance of the court or other mediation. This report will not detail the status of each of the pending litigation matters, but instead will report on those matters as they are concluded or significant events occur.

For example, the Trust settled the adversary litigation against Mr. Granatstein for a settlement amount payable in four installments. The adversary proceeding against Mr. Stupak was settled in consideration of a lump sum payment and a settlement agreement, including a release. The adversary proceeding against Mr. Rentz was settled for a lump sum payment, settlement agreement and release. The Trust settled the lawsuit against Greenwald, Pauly, Foster & Miller in consideration of a lump sum payment, settlement and release.

The Trust does not need bankruptcy court approval for settlements under either applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code of Rules or under the Plan of Reorganization. Accordingly, such small settlements are simply implemented by the Trustee. Larger settlements are brought to the Court upon notice as a matter of courtesy

and to assist the Court and United States Trustee in their oversight roles and as may be a condition to those settlements.

## **V. PRESERVING INSIDER ASSETS AND ADVOCATING TRUST INTERESTS IN OTHER BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS**

### **A. USAIP Chapter 11 Case**

USAIP is the maker of a \$58,374,918.81 promissory note (the “\$58 Million Note”) to USACM for the benefit of creditors (including DTDF). Repayment of the \$58 Million Note and other obligations of USAIP are secured by liens on USAIP’s interest in entities owned or in part by USAIP.<sup>17</sup> The Trust may also claim equitable ownership rights in some assets titled in such entities and they may be a source of value to satisfy damages claims. USAIP is a debtor in a bankruptcy case pending in Nevada (case #07-11821-LBR).

The Trust was contacted by former counsel for USACM, which filed a proof of claim by USACM as servicer for USAIP, in the bankruptcy case of American Enchantment II LLC. The Trust forwarded this objection to USAIP, which appears to be the relevant entity for responding to the Trustee’s objection. USAIP, through the trustee’s counsel, has responded to the objection.

#### **1. Receiver**

The Trust and DTDF opposed the fee application by the Waverton Group as former receiver for USAIP. On May 14, 2008, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order on Waverton Group’s Application for Fees and Expenses, which resolved the objection by the Trust and others to the fee and expense application of Waverton Group as former receiver for USAIP. The Court ordered compensation for fees of \$10,100 and \$3,148.09 for expenses if Waverton supplemented its application. Waverton failed to file such a supplement and on July 25, 2008, the Court denied Waverton’s request for reimbursement of the remaining expenses.

Waverton filed an application for reconsideration with respect to the Court’s order. Waverton’s motion for reconsideration explained that Waverton had failed to comply with the Court’s directives in terms of timing, due to inadvertence, and then on the substance, argued that the fees and expenses requested by Waverton should be approved.

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<sup>17</sup> Capital Land Investors, LLC, a California limited liability company; Ashby USA, LLC, a California limited liability company; Placer County Land Investors, LLC a California limited liability company (f/k/a Placer County Land Speculators, LLC); Oak Mesa Investors, LLC, a California limited liability company; HMA Sales, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; Tanamera Properties, LLC; Random Developments, LLC, a California limited liability company; and Buffalo Land Developments, LLC, a California limited liability company.

The motion for reconsideration went well beyond the scope of the Court's most recent order, and conceptually attacked the decisions made by the Trust in connection with the involuntary bankruptcy of USAIP. The Trust filed a brief response to the motion for reconsideration on August 25, 2008, and appeared at a hearing before the bankruptcy court on September 8, 2008. At that hearing, the Court substantially denied Waverton's request for reconsideration, but allowed Waverton certain expenses.

## **2. Trustee**

Over the objection of Hantges and Milanowski, through counsel, the bankruptcy court (Honorable Linda B. Riegle) entered an order directing the United States Trustee to appoint an interim trustee for USAIP. Lisa M. Poulin was appointed and continues to serve as trustee. She selected Gordon Silver, fka Gordon & Silver, P.C. of Las Vegas, Nevada as her counsel, with the Court's approval.

## **3. Proofs of Claim**

On behalf of the Trust, Diamond McCarthy timely filed a proof of claim seeking \$158,900,000 from the USAIP estate on behalf of the Trust.

As Lisa Poulin identified USAIP subsidiaries in need of bankruptcy protection, bankruptcy cases were filed, she was appointed trustee, and the cases were jointly administered. These include: USAIP; USA Investors VI, LLC, Case No. 07-12377; Tree Moss Partners, LL, Case No. 06-13758; HMA Sales, LLC, Case No. 07-12694; Capital Land Investors, LLC, Case No. 07-18099; Oak Mesa Investors, LLC, Case No. 08-10397; and Buffalo Land Development Co., LLC, Case No. 08-10398.

USAIP sought and obtained approval to retain Foley & Lardner LLP as special counsel to deal with the claims of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC"), in part as a result of the successful resolution of the objections of the USACM Liquidating Trust to the PBGC proofs of claim. USAIP then objected to three proofs of claim filed by the PBGC in the aggregate amount of approximately \$3 million.

## **4. Hantges Insurance**

On April 22, 2008, the USAIP Trustee sought and after a hearing obtained authority to settle with the Trust concerning the ownership of certain life insurance policies on the life Thomas A. Hantges as well as responsibility for the insurance premium payments. The settlement agreement provides that the Trust will obtain ownership of the policies, which were improperly transferred to USAIP by Joseph Milanowski after the USACM bankruptcy filing and without court approval. The Trust has reimbursed USAIP for premiums advanced.

The bankruptcy court's July 7, 2008 Order approved the settlement agreement pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019. Pursuant to the settlement, title to the Hantges insurance policies was transferred to the Trust, which reimbursed USAIP for \$68,078.20, plus

\$33,917.20 for premiums and \$8,716.00 for attorneys' fees expended in maintaining the policies.

## **B. Insiders – Thomas Hantges and Joseph Milanowski**

### **1. Hantges**

Due to the actions of the Trust, the Administrator of the DTDF and other creditors, Thomas A. Hantges is a debtor in a chapter 11 bankruptcy case in Nevada, Case No. 07-13163-lbr. Michael Carmel was appointed trustee in the Hantges bankruptcy.

The Trust timely filed a proof of claim against the Hantges estate seeking the amount of \$305,000,000. Resolution of claims against the Hantges estate and the possibility of payment are months or years away.

On February 11, 2008, the Trust through Diamond McCarthy filed a complaint to determine non-dischargeability of debt against Hantges, assigned Adversary No. 08-01042-lbr. Hantges has answered the complaint and the matter is in the early discovery stages. Similar lawsuits were filed against Hantges by DTDF (No. 08-01041), the Kehl family (No. 08-01040), and the United States Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") (No. 08-01039).

The Trust continues to prosecute the adversary complaints against Joseph Milanowski, Case No. 08-01093, and Thomas Hantges, Case No. 08-01042. A scheduling conference was held and a settlement conference scheduled, which was vacated by the Court in October, 2008. The settlement conferences are being rescheduled in front of a different settlement judge. The Trust has been asked to consider coordinating its efforts to have its claims determined to be non-dischargeable with those of other creditors seeking the same determination (including DTDF). The Trust has agreed to this request from the newly appointed settlement judge. No new date for settlement conferences in these matters has been scheduled.

The Trust had provided limited post-petition financing to the Hantges estate pursuant to a loan approved by the bankruptcy court. In an amendment, the Trust agreed to increase the amount of the loan to \$2,250,000. The purpose of the loan is to enable the Hantges trustee to collect assets owed to the Hantges creditors, including the Trust. The obligation continues to bear interest and be secured by a first priority lien on all unencumbered assets of the Hantges estate, and a junior lien on any encumbered assets, as well as a super-priority administrative claim. The amendment to the loan was approved by the Bankruptcy Court in its May 9, 2008 order.

During the quarter, the Hantges trustee objected to Hantges' claimed exemptions and prosecuted a complaint to recover funds transferred by Hantges to a family trust, Adversary No. 08-01002 pending in the bankruptcy court. The action includes other defendants who were sued for aiding fraudulent transfers and concealment of assets.

On May 7, 2008, Hantges filed a motion to dismiss in a chapter 11 case or an alternative motion to convert the case from chapter 11 to chapter 7. Hantges argued that prosecution of the case in chapter 11 was not in the best interests of creditors, and that a requirement of bankruptcy law applicable to individual chapter 11 bankruptcy cases could effectively impose unconstitutional involuntary servitude upon Hantges. The Trust filed an opposition, as did counsel for Michael Carmel, Trustee for Hantges, and the Office of the United States Trustee. The Motion to Dismiss was considered by the Court, which entered a ruling in open court denying the Motion to Dismiss or Convert.

The Trust and the Trustee for the Hantges estate entered into an agreement for prosecution of claims by the Trust against Lucius Blanchard, the Blanchard Children's Trust, Palomino Partners and Thomas A. Hantges with respect to the transfers to and assets of the alleged Trust. The lawsuit was filed by the Trust on August 25, 2008 at Case No. 08-01268. The Hantges estate also retained the Trust's special litigation counsel – Diamond McCarthy – to prosecute certain actions on behalf of the Hantges estate.

## **2. Milanowski**

Similarly, due to the actions of the Trust and DTDF and other creditors, Joseph Milanowski is a debtor in a chapter 11 bankruptcy case in Nevada, Case No. 07-13162-lbr. Again, the Trust, DTDF and others joined in bringing the involuntary petition against Milanowski. The Bankruptcy Court entered an order for relief against Milanowski and appointed Ford Elsaesser as the trustee in the Milanowski case. Milanowski has appealed the order for relief. The Milanowski appeal is in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, Case No. 3:07-cv-404. This appeal was reassigned to Judge Brian E. Sandoval and eventually dismissed, on May 8, 2008.

The Trust filed a proof of claim through Diamond McCarthy against Milanowski for \$305,000,000. The claim includes Milanowski's guarantees of the debts of Placer County Land Speculators, LLC to the Placer 1 and Placer 2 Direct Lenders on the loans that the Trust is servicing.

The Trust through Diamond McCarthy filed a complaint in the bankruptcy court, Adv. No. 08-01093-lbr, to determine the dischargeability of Milanowski's debts to the Trust. That complaint is in the early stages of discovery. A scheduling conference is set for August 27, 2008. Similar lawsuits were filed against Milanowski by DTDF (No. 07-13162), Aurora Investment L.P (No. 07-01212), the Kehl family (No. 08-01052), the PBGC (No. 08-01044), and BySynergy, LLC (No. 07-01209).

As indicated above, the Trust continues to prosecute the adversary complaints against Joseph Milanowski, Case No. 08-01093, and Thomas Hantges, Case No. 08-01042. A scheduling conference was held and a settlement conference scheduled, which was vacated by the Court in October, 2008. The settlement conferences are being rescheduled in front of a different settlement judge.

The Trust continues to cooperate with federal, state and local officials investigating USACM. On April 23, 2008, the SEC brought an action against Joseph Milanowski “in connection with a multi-million dollar fraud” seeking an order requiring Milanowski to disgorge sums obtained. The Trust is not prosecuting this action. The complaint was filed with the United States District for the District of Nevada and is Case No. 2:08-CV-00511.

### **C. HMA Sales, LLC**

The Trust, through Lewis and Roca, filed a proof of claim against the HMA Sales, LLC estate in the amount of \$4,832,123.96. The chapter 11 trustee for HMA Sales (Lisa Poulin) confirmed a chapter 11 plan of reorganization providing for orderly liquidation of the estate. The effective date of the trustee’s plan was March 3, 2008. The trustee for HMA Sales and the Trust have reached agreement, subject to bankruptcy court approval, to allow the claim and to provide for specific percentage distributions to the Trust proportionate to other allowed claims.

### **D. Salvatore Reale**

Prior to the Effective Date, USACM sued Salvatore J. Reale, individually and as trustee of the Salvatore J. Reale Revocable Trust. The adversary proceeding is Adv. No. 06-01251 pending in the Bankruptcy Court. On May 25, 2007, the Trust’s special litigation counsel (Diamond McCarthy) filed the Trust’s Second Amended Complaint. The Trust originally sought to avoid transfers to or for the benefit of Mr. Reale aggregating slightly less than \$10 million. After further investigation, the Trust narrowed its claims to avoid and recover a \$4 million transfer to or for the benefit of Mr. Reale.

After a trial on January 31, 2008, the Bankruptcy Court determined on March 28, 2008 that judgment should be entered in favor of the Trust and against Mr. Reale for \$4 million, plus an award of the Trust’s taxable costs. The Trust filed a motion seeking pre- and post-judgment interest, which motion was granted by the Bankruptcy Court after a hearing on May 8, 2008. The Trust obtained judgment on May 13, 2008.

The Trust continues to work on collection of the \$4 million judgment against Salvatore Reale, including seeking post-judgment discovery, filing a motion to compel compliance with the discovery requests, and negotiating with Mr. Reale on a possible settlement. Efforts to recover on the judgment are complicated by a temporary restraining order against Mr. Reale in another matter, as well as an obligation to the Internal Revenue Service.

### **E. JMK Investments**

On September 12, 2007, the Trust sued JMK Investments, Ltd. and a number of individual defendants seeking to avoid certain pre-petition transfers that aggregate to over \$4 million (Adv. No. 07-01154). The Bankruptcy Court considered a motion for leave to

file third amended complaint filed by the Trust and opposition filed by the defendants. The Court found that the motion for leave to amend should be granted and scheduled further hearings with regard to the defendants' prior discovery responses, which proved to be inaccurate. The third amended complaint was filed in July 2008. The parties continued with discovery and a second settlement conference was scheduled by the bankruptcy court, and conducted by the Honorable Bruce A. Markell in late September 2008. An agreement in concept was reached for settlement of the case during the settlement conference, but not documented until after the end of the quarter. The hearing to approve the tentative settlement has been scheduled for November 18, 2008.

#### **F. Tree Moss Partners, LLC**

The Trust does not have a direct interest in Tree Moss Partners, LLC, which is also a debtor in bankruptcy due to an involuntary bankruptcy petition (Case No. 06-13758-LBR). Ms. Poulin has been appointed trustee for Tree Moss. Tree Moss owns the condominium project adjacent to the Hotel Zoso. USAIP's equity in this entity is not pledged as collateral for the \$58 million Note.

The Trust filed a proof of unsecured claim for \$1,075,799.91 in the case.

On April 1, 2008, the Bankruptcy Court granted the Motion of the Trustee for Tree Moss Partners, LLC for sale of substantially all of its property and releases with Diamond Resorts Corporation as buyer.

### **VI. COLLECTION OF TRUST ASSETS**

#### **A. Reserves**

The Trust monitors certain reserves held by USACM through Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC ("MFIM"). These reserves are identified generally in Monthly Operating Reports filed by USACM, which are prepared by MFIM. A portion of those reserves were recently released to the Trust in connection with the resolution of the substantial majority of the claims asserted by the PBGC (see below for further information on the PBGC claims).

#### **B. Colt Loan**

USACM held a \$1 million second lien on property known as the Colt Gateway Property in Hartford, Connecticut, subject to a first lien held by DTDF, Fertitta Enterprises, Inc. and the estate of Daniel Tabas, and USACM held claims for servicing and other fees on that loan. The Trust continued to work with Michael A. Tucker, the administrator of DTDF, on collection of sums owed on the Colt loans. Proposals have been received from Homes for America Holding, the developer of the project, for refinancing the project and addressing the outstanding debts, but no significant progress has been made in this regard.

### C. Compass Escrows

In connection with the Closing of the Asset Purchase Agreement dated December 8, 2006 (“Compass APA”) with Compass USA SPE, LLC (“Compass”) on February 16, 2006, certain escrows were established. The first escrow agreement is for \$1,250,000 with respect to Compass’ asserted right to invoke an Individual Asset MAC (as defined in the Compass APA) under § 9.1(i). USACM and the Trust dispute Compass’ assertions.

The second escrow for \$903,000 was established with respect to Compass’ asserted right to assert a dollar for dollar reduction of the Commercial Mortgage Price (as described in § 2.3(i) of the Compass APA). The Trust must proceed to Court to demonstrate that Compass’ rights to the Success Fees for the Franklin-Stratford Investments LLC and the I-40 Gateway West Loan were not impaired prior to the closing.

A third escrow of \$412,666.45 was established and is self-liquidating either upon collections received by Compass or after the passage of time.

Because the Trust and Compass were unable to resolve their disputes, and because the deadline for collections from the self-liquidating escrow was approaching and Compass would not stipulate to extend the deadline, the Trust sued Compass in the bankruptcy court on April 29, 2008, adversary no. 08-01066-lbr. Republic Title Of Texas, Inc. was named as a defendant as escrow agent, but no responsive pleading has been requested from the title company at this point in time. Compass filed an answer and counterclaim.

Further, Compass’ lender, Silar Advisors, LLC foreclosed on its loan to Compass on September 26, 2008. Silar, through its counsel, has reached out to the Trust to discuss resolution of the litigation, as well as to address issues related to accounting of loan collections and collections of prepaid interest by Compass. Efforts to resolve the litigation without significant further expense are being explored at this time. In the meantime, the matter will be prosecuted in due course.

### D. Interpleader

USACM had filed an interpleader, Adversary No. 06-1146, concerning sums held in the USACM investors trust account before bankruptcy. The Trust negotiated with parties having an interest in the account concerning final resolution of it, which was eventually filed with the Court as the Stipulation Re: Interest on Claims, Awarding Fees and Costs in Interpleader Action (filed in the adversary case). As a result of the Stipulation, the Trust received the balance of the funds in the account, after payment to claimants, payment of the unclaimed funds into the clerk of the court for deposit in the registry account, specified amounts to the law firms of David W. Huston, PC and Schwartzer & McPherson.

At the request of the Court, the Trust continues to provide status reports and attempts to facilitate resolution of the interpleader action captioned *USA Commercial Mortgage*

*Company v. Robert J. Kehl et al*, Adv. No. 06-01167-lbr, and *USA Commercial Mortgage Company v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, Adv. No. 06-01146-lbr.

#### **E. Lee Suit**

One of the assets of the Trust was causes of action asserted against James J. Lee by USACM. That matter resulted in an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, Case Nos. 46363 and 46781. In an order filed March 28, 2008, the Supreme Court reversed and remanded summary judgment granted to USACM against Lee. The Trust is handling this matter through a special counsel relationship with Lenard E. Schwartzer.

Mr. Lee filed a bankruptcy petition, Case No. 08-10969, with the United States Bankruptcy Court in Nevada on February 6, 2008. The Trust continues to assert its interest in the Lee bankruptcy case.

### **VII. PROFESSIONAL FEE APPLICATION OBJECTIONS**

The Trust has received post-effective date billings from Mesirow, Ray, Quinney & Nebeker, Schwartzer & McPherson, and BMC Group as professionals previously retained by USACM but providing services on a post-effective date basis. The Trust has privately expressed concerns with certain of these service providers with respect to the billings. Some of the concerns have been resolved by fee reductions. To the extent such concerns are not resolved, any disputes will need to be brought to the Bankruptcy Court for resolution.

### **VIII. PROOFS OF CLAIM AND CLAIMS OBJECTIONS**

#### **A. Overview**

To date there have been seven administrative claims filed totaling \$2,016,499.08; 103 priority claims filed totaling \$7,751,955.91; 1,676 secured claims filed totaling \$297,052,436.44; 1232 unsecured claims filed totaling \$627,644,519.30; and 79 unknown claims filed totaling \$293,489.60. Additional claims were scheduled by the jointly administered Debtors.

#### **B. Objections**

To date, the Trust has filed:

- Objections to 1667 secured claims that have been sustained and reclassified as unsecured in aggregate of \$296,160,362.79.
- Objections to 76 priority claims that have been sustained and reclassified as unsecured in aggregate of \$5,122,243.

- One objection to the status of an administrative claim totaling \$14,248 that has been sustained and reclassified as unsecured.
- Objections to 66 “Wrong Debtor” claims in the amount of \$12,098,062. All but one of those objections were sustained or a stipulation withdrawing the subject claim was approved;
- Objections to three claims not enforceable against USACM in the amount of \$75,503,580; one of these claims totaling \$12,841,680 remains unresolved.
- Objections to 147 claims for lack of documentation in the amount of \$19,708,808; 23 of these objections to claims totaling \$1,920,750 were withdrawn due to claimants sending in sufficient supporting document and 124 objections were sustained totaling \$17,788,058.
- Objections to 34 claims on miscellaneous grounds in the amount of \$39,394,064. Two of these objections were sustained totaling \$3,502,383; 17 objections have stipulated withdrawals totaling \$4,884,078; 5 claims totaling \$6,416,532 have orders allowing the claim; and ten objections totaling \$24,591,071 are unresolved.
- A total of 778 objections to Direct Lenders claims in the amount of \$59,637,409, principally on loans paid in full by the borrowers. The Court has sustained these objections or the claimants have agreed that they are not making a claim based upon the paid loan in question.
- A stipulation has been executed and an order signed which provides for the disallowance of the Spectrum and Weddell proofs of claim in the amount of \$125,000,000.

The Trust continued to prosecute objections to claims, including the Direct Loans serviced by USACM known as Halsey Canyon; Fiesta Beaumont \$2.4 million; Ashby Financial Company \$7,200,000; Glendale Tower Partners, LLC; Golden State Investments II; 5252 Orange, LLC; Midvale Market Place, LLC; Urban Housing Alliance – 435 Lofts Loan; Boise/Gowen 93, LLC; LCG Gilroy, LLC; J Jireh’s Corporation; One Point Street, LLC – HFA North Yonkers; Goss Road Loan; Elizabeth May Real Estate Loan; Slade Development; Wasco Investments, LLC; I-40 Gateway West, LLC 2nd; Cottonwood Hills, LLC; Standard Property Development, LLC; and Palm Springs Marquis Hotel.

Further, as the Trust has received information from claimants, it has entered into stipulations for the allowance and disallowance of priority and unsecured claims. Conversely, some claimants have stipulated to either withdraw their claims or have them reclassified as unsecured claims upon discussion with the USACM Trust’s counsel.

The remaining direct lender claims relate to loans that (1) fully performed, but involve diverted principal; (2) partially performed; (3) are non-performing or still outstanding. The extent to which those loans perform and/or the direct lenders may be compensated from the sale of collateral securing the loans has a major impact on the amount of the claims. The Trustee is handling these claims on a loan by loan basis.

Not all of the claims objections can be resolved through motions. The Court has ordered that the Trust's objection to claim 1366 of Los Valles Land & Golf, LLC be consolidated with a related adversary proceeding filed by the Trust against Los Valles and its guarantor, Dan S. Palmer, Jr. The Trust filed an action against Los Valles Land & Golf, LLC, Dan S. Palmer Jr., Case No. 08-01058-lbr. Proceedings during the quarter in this matter included briefing and argument on a Motion to Dismiss. An amended complaint was filed in light of the briefing and Court's directions. The parties are now in the process of discovery to prepare the matter for resolution by the Court.

On August 1, 2008 the court entered an order approving the stipulation concerning the claim of Pecos Professional Park Limited Partnership.

The proofs of claim filed by Terry Coffing and Lerin Hills were withdrawn by stipulation and court order, respectively. The Court granted the omnibus objection of the Trust with respect to claims concerning the One Point Street, LLC – HFA North Yonkers Loan on July 25, 2008. The Court granted the omnibus objection of the Trust with respect to claims concerning Fiesta Beaumont \$2.4 million Loan on July 30, 2008. The Court granted the omnibus objection of the Trust with respect to claims concerning Opaque/Mt. Edge \$7,350,000 loan on July 30, 2008.

In general, with respect to claims of Direct Lenders, the Trust is waiting for information concerning collection of loans before turning to the unsecured claims of the direct lenders in the particular loan. The inability of Compass or its successors to collect loans directly impacts the Trust's ability to work on proofs of claim. Without loan collection, the Trust cannot know the actual damages incurred by the Lenders on account of alleged breaches by USACM.

The Trust received notice of a foreclosure lawsuit filed in Kendall County Circuit Court, Illinois by Kennedy Funding, Inc. concerning the Ocean Atlantic Loan, Loan I.D. No. 295 the Trust understood to be serviced by Compass. The Trust forwarded the litigation to Compass for follow up.

The Trust periodically receives inquiry from lenders concerning their claims and how to report the claims on tax returns. The Trust is, unfortunately, not in a position to offer tax advice to direct lenders. This would include whether lenders may properly seek a bad debt deduction for the unpaid balance of particular loans.

### C. PBGC

The PBGC claims against USACM were resolved, as described in prior reports by an Order of the Court entered on August 6, 2008. All sums reserved for the PBGC claims have either been distributed to the PBGC or the Trust, as appropriate.

The PBGC filed substantially similar claims against USAIP and its affiliates. Those entities have hired the Trust's counsel responsible for resolving the PBGC claims as special counsel. Objections have been filed to the PBGC claims, and the PBGC has sought settlement conferences in each of the cases.

### D. Contact Information

For an inquiry on your proof of claim, or on an objection to a proof of claim, please contact:

Sierra Consulting Group  
Brant Fylling  
E-mail: [USACMTRUST@sierracgllc.com](mailto:USACMTRUST@sierracgllc.com)  
Telephone 602-424-7020

For additional information, please refer to the website of the USACM Liquidating Trust: <http://usacmcucc.bmcgroup.com>. You may send an e-mail on a general inquiry to: [USAcommittee@lrlaw.com](mailto:USAcommittee@lrlaw.com).

### E. Objection Deadline

The Trust has filed numerous claims objections and succeeded to objections previously filed by USACM. The Trust has from time to time sought extensions of the deadline to object to claims to further analyze them. The current deadline for claims objections is October 10, 2008, and the Trust has sought a further extension.

As noted above, the Trust reviewed the thousands of proofs of claim filed with the Court to determine those which appeared to be filed by Direct Lenders. In turn, each Direct Lender's claim was analyzed to see what direct loan or loans it arose out of. The Trust's intention is to take each group of Direct Lender claims on a loan-by-loan basis, determine if the claims are valid, and in what amount, and then to advise all Direct Lenders who filed proofs of claim with respect to that loan of the Trust's recommendation. This approach is consistent with the alternative dispute resolution mechanism implemented for Direct Lenders by confirmation of the Plan, which in general requires personal consultation by the Trust and the affected Direct Lenders who disagree with the Trust's position, as well as mediation.

Numerous claimants have called the Trust asking when the Trust will have concluded its examination of claims. In general, the claims will not be resolved until the last direct loan has been paid or otherwise resolved. This is because there are proofs of claim filed

by Direct Lenders in all of the loans that USACM serviced. However, as the pool of unresolved loans becomes smaller, it may be possible to estimate the claims that might be allowed with respect to the unresolved loans. That process will, nevertheless, take many months.

#### F. Claims For Stolen Principal

Numerous Direct Lenders invested in loans where the pre-bankruptcy management of USACM diverted or stole the principal repaid by the borrower, rather than pay the Direct Lenders. The sums owed to the Direct Lenders are scheduled and those amounts are deemed claims against the Trust. Due to the frequency of Direct Lender inquiries as to the status of these loans, here again is the list of Loans where all or part of the principal was diverted, as determined by MFIM:

	<b>Dates Received</b>	<b>Principal Owed to Direct Lenders</b>
Bay Pompano Beach	12/1/05 - 3/20/06	\$ 7,875,857.57
Beastar, LLC	1/24/06 - 1/27/06	3,030,489.19
Beau Rivage Homes/\$8,000,000	9/14/2005	326,381.03
Cabernet	1/13/2006	900,000.00
Copper Sage Commerce Center, LLC	1/30/06 - 3/17/06	1,388,773.19
Del Valle Isleton	2/23/06 - 3/24/06	380,000.00
Freeway 101	2/22/2006	3,741,777.16
Lake Helen Partners	2/17/2006	19,589.72
Oak Shores II	2/27/2006	3,000,000.00
Roam Development Group	2/13/06 - 3/16/06	634,028.28
Universal Hawaii	1/13/2006	5,062,942.85
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 26,359,838.99</b>

#### G. Compass v. LPG

As indicated above, the Trust believes that the most efficient way to evaluate unsecured claims of Direct Lenders is after the applicable direct loan has been resolved, presumably through collection. A number of disputes are in litigation among the plaintiffs in lawsuits pending in the District Court, as well as the Lender Protection Group (the "LPG") and Donna Cangelosi ("Cangelosi") (collectively referred to as "LPG") and Compass USA SPE, LLC, Compass Partners, LLC, and Compass Financial Partners, LLC ("Compass"), which have expanded to include certain named Direct Lenders and Compass' officers and lender. That litigation is generally managed by the United States District Court for the District of Nevada under Case No. 2:07-cv-00892-RCJ-GWF. The Trust is not a party to that litigation. Nevertheless, the litigation does adversely impact the Trust's ability to evaluate claims.

Terry Coffing, the Receiver for the LPG entities and Compass sought approval of a settlement agreement in a filing on July 25, 2008. A hearing on approval of the settlement was scheduled for August 11, 2008. Substantial numbers of direct lenders oppose the settlement. At the hearing, the District Court declined to approve the settlement, expressing reservations and essentially directing that the parties consider settlement on a loan-by-loan basis. The Court granted leave for the Receiver to file a third amended class action complaint and appointed the Receiver to represent the interests of the members of the class. The class action would not be a “opt out” class action. The parties were required to submit further analysis of the proposed settlement. The foreclosure by Silar Advisors of its loan to Compass (addressed above) also impacts this litigation.

#### **H. Disbursing Agent Agreement**

The Trust and USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC (“FTDF”) entered into a Stipulation Concerning Amended Disbursing Agent Agreement. The Court approved the parties’ stipulation on June 29, 2007, so that the Trust will act as the disbursing agent for equity holders of FTDF if there is a distribution on the \$7 million FTDF unsecured claim, now that entity is liquidated. The bankruptcy court entered a final decree and order closing the FTDF case on October 12, 2007. The Trust was advised that the final distribution to the members of the Fund, along with their respective K-1’s for 2006, was released to the members. In the transmittal to the Fund members, members were advised to address all further inquiries about the status of the Fund to the Trust. The Trust is attempting to answer these questions as best it can in light of not having prepared the distribution or K-1 information returns.

The Trust is the distribution agent for any additional distributions owed to members of FTDF. FTDF investors periodically request information from the Trust, which the Trust provides to the extent it has the information in its files as a result of turnover from FTDF, including the final FTDF tax return.

### **IX. LOAN SERVICING ISSUES**

#### **A. USA Investors VI, LLC**

The owner of the Hotel Zoso f/k/a Hotel Marquis in Palm Springs – USA Investors VI, LLC (“Investors VI”) – was controlled by USAIP, and is now under the control of Lisa Poulin, its trustee.

Pursuant to, among other things, a settlement with the Trust, USA Investors VI, LLC plan of reorganization filed by its chapter 11 trustee was confirmed on February 6, 2008 and Effective Date of the Plan was February 19, 2008.

Pursuant to the Plan of Reorganization confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court in *In re USA Investors VI, LLC*, Case No. 07-12377-lbr, the Trust received payment of the direct loan on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. The payoff was as follows:

Principal due	\$13,500,000.00
Interest due @ 2/19/08	7,318,168.32
Total	\$20,818,168.32

The payoff included an additional \$2,000,000 as a compromise of the Trust's right to collect default interest, late charges and attorneys' fees as reflected in the Modification to Chapter 11 Trustee's Plan of Reorganization filed with the Bankruptcy Court at Docket No. 358 on December 26, 2007.

The Trust distributed the principal and interest due to Direct Lenders within a week of its receipt, pursuant to the applicable loan servicing agreements, the confirmed Plan of Reorganization, and the Bankruptcy Court's supplemental order in executing the Plan.

In addition, the Trust netted pre-paid interest due from Direct Lenders pursuant to the Plan. That collection substantially reduced the balance of pre-paid interest owed generally by Direct Lenders. Approximately \$1,016,000 in pre-paid interest was netted.

The Trust has agreed with the Trustee for USA Investors VI, LLC to an extension of the deadline for the Trustee to object to the Trust's remaining unsecured claim. Given the relatively modest distribution available to unsecured creditors as well as the terms of the confirmed plan, the Trust does not expect the negotiation to involve any extensive delay or expense.

The Trust's settlement with the PBGC also resolved the PBGC's claim in the USA Investors VI, LLC as well as other estates.<sup>18</sup>

In the bankruptcy filing by USA Investors VI, LLC, the Trust filed a proof of unsecured claim for sums advanced from USACM through to Investors VI without benefit being received by USACM, as well as for sums that were due but unpaid in connection with the sale of the real property and the satisfaction of the Trust's secured claim. Investors VI, through Lisa Poulin, the trustee, objected to the Trust's proof of claim. The parties negotiated over the claim objection and agreed not to needlessly expend sums in litigation pending those negotiations. During this time, Investors VI worked through other proofs of claim, reducing the number of disputed claims to a handful, including the Trust's claim. The Trust evaluated both its legal position as well as the limited funds available for distribution to unsecured creditors in Investors VI.

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<sup>18</sup> The USAIP trustee has filed claim objections to the PBGC claims filed in the various USAIP and related entities' estates. No resolution of those objections has been obtained as of the filing of this Report.

After negotiations, the Trust and Investors VI reached a settlement agreement with respect to the proof of claim. The claim would be allowed as filed. For distribution purposes, the claim of the Trust and DTDF would each be equally allowed, with other unsecured creditors, so that distributions from the Investors VI estate would be paid one-third to the Trust, one-third to Diversified and one-third to other unsecured creditors. Counsel for the Trust and Investors VI worked through settlement language for presentation to the bankruptcy court. The stipulation was filed with the court on September 23, 2008.

## B. Trust Loan Servicing - Placer Vineyards

The balances of the Notes by Placer County Land Speculators, LLC as Borrower to Direct Lenders on loans serviced by the Trust are as follows as of September 30, 2008:

	<b>Placer 1</b>	<b>Placer 2</b>
Principal	\$31,500,000.00	\$6,500,000.00
Interest	13,848,083.87	3,755,854.11
Default Interest	8,319,700.61	940,066.80
Late Fees on Interest	692,404.19	187,792.71
Late Fee on Principal	1,575,000.00	325,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,935,188.67</b>	<b>11,708,713.62</b>

The Trust, as servicer, reports monthly to the Direct Lenders. Those reports are posted on the Trust's website. After providing notice to the Direct Lenders on those loans, and with the responding Direct Lenders' consent, the Trust advanced \$671,434.55 in July 2007 to pay the past due taxes secured by a lien on the Placer Vineyards property. This advance protected the Direct Lenders' collateral, and although the Trust will be reimbursed with interest at the prime rate before the Direct Lenders receive payment, the advance reduces the interest rate payable on those taxes.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a development template for the total project, including the Placer County Land Speculators property. That approval allows the owners in the entire 5,230 acre project to continue development. The development group is Placer Vineyards Development Group, LLC. Ongoing development expense includes legal expense defending litigation brought against the development, engineering and other design, permitting and construction costs. The borrower lacks the ability to fund these expenses.

On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, the Trust, through the Trustee along with counsel, conducted two conference calls with Direct Lenders in the Placer 1 and 2 Loans. We advised the Direct Lenders that the Trust as servicer intended to negotiate with the Borrower through Lisa M. Poulin, Trustee of USAIP, as the majority member of the Borrower, for a bankruptcy filing by the Borrower and sale of the collateral at an auction. The most recent information available to the Trust was summarized in the call and

suggests that the market value of the collateral may not exceed the principal and accrued (non-default) interest on the Placer 1 Loan.

The Borrower did not pay a capital call of \$52,718.04 due to the developers for the first quarter of 2008. In addition, the Borrower is in default under a compromise agreement for prior capital calls.

The Trust hired Mark Gorton of McDonough, Holland & Allen P.C. in Sacramento, CA to represent the Trust in foreclosing the lien held by the Direct Lenders in the Placer 1 Loan. With Mr. Gorton's assistance, the Trustee retained Alliance Default Services, a division of Alliance Title, in Sacramento, California, to serve as the substitute trustee under the Placer 1 Deed of Trust. Significant expense was incurred in the foreclosure process. A Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale were recorded on December 3 and 4, 2007, the latter at Document No. 2007-0114236, Official Records of Placer County, California. Notice of the foreclosure sale was recorded and served, with the trustee's sale originally scheduled for April 9, 2008.

The foreclosure trustee requested copies of the loan servicing agreements for each of the more than 325 Direct Lenders in the Placer 1 loan. The USACM records provided to the Trust did not contain copies of all of those LSAs. The Trust requested written consent from each of the Lenders for whom it did not have a copy of a signed LSA to the foreclosure. As a result, the Trust directed the foreclosure sale be continued.

Shortly before the scheduled foreclosure sale, a group of Placer Direct Lenders notified the Trust and the substitute trustee under the Note that they denied consent to the foreclosure sale and disputed the Trust's authority to act on their behalf,<sup>19</sup> claiming that if the foreclosure sale resulted in title to the Property being held by the Lenders, in their own names, they could be disadvantaged, this despite the fact that that is how all of the Lenders acquired interests in the loans. Further, a number of the Direct Lenders in the Placer 2 Loan are trying to arrange a mechanism for Placer 2 Lenders to participate in the Property after foreclosure.

Roy Hibdon represented to the Trust that an entity called Placer Vineyards 1st, LLC, composed of five members – Roy H. Hibdon, Lindsey Kessler, Gail Gray, Sean Najarian and Donna Cangelosi, opposes the foreclosure. On April 1, Mr. Hibdon indicated that approximately 164 Direct Lenders with \$12.062 million of the Placer 1 Loan were members of the LLC. This is about one-half in number and somewhat more than one-third of the dollar amount of the Placer 1 Loan.

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<sup>19</sup> It should also be noted that a large number of the direct lenders who notified the Trust of their objection to the sale and claimed the Trust did not have the authority to act on their behalf had properly executed loan servicing agreements in favor of USACM (as servicer) and therefore the Trust, pursuant to the terms of the confirmed Plan of Reorganization.

An entity called Placer Vineyards 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenders, LLC, a Nevada LLC, filed a chapter 11 bankruptcy petition on April 8, 2008. Its counsel advised that this LLC holds interests in the Placer 2 Loan and that the bankruptcy filing was intended to stop the foreclosure sale scheduled for April 9, 2008. The Trust reviewed the bankruptcy case and joined in a Motion to Dismiss the bankruptcy case filed by the Office of the United States Trustee. The bankruptcy case was dismissed by the bankruptcy court's May 16, 2008 order. The Bankruptcy Court closed the file of the bankruptcy case of Placer Vineyards 2nd Lenders, LLC, No. 08-50546-GWZ on July 2, 2008.

The Trust periodically receives information from the Placer Vineyards Development Group LLC. The invoice No. 5 for the 2008 Capital Call Requirement to the owner of the Placer County Land Investors Property was \$52,718.04 representing 923 EDU's, which is apparently the basis upon which the total billing of \$600,068.34 was allocated.

In connection with the collection of the Placer County Land Speculators, LLC loans, the Trust corresponded with Justin Clouser, a lawyer. In June, 2008, Mr. Clouser suggested that additional time should be granted before foreclosing the lien securing repayment of the Placer 1 Loan so that a plan could be proposed by Placer 1 and Placer 2 Lenders. That plan assumed new investments by Placer Lenders, and agreements among all the Placer Vineyards 1 and 2 Lenders concerning priority of repayment for advances, distribution of proceeds of the property, and subordination of sums due to the Placer 1 Lenders in favor of Placer 2 Lenders. The Trust responded that this transaction would require, at a minimum, compliance with federal and state securities laws in the formation of new entities, and agreement of, at least, all of the Placer 1 Lenders. This is because, for example, exchanging an interest in a loan for an interest in an investment vehicle is a transaction governed by federal and state securities laws. With respect to consent, a Placer 1 Lender's right to payment on account of the Loan, deed of trust or collateral could not be subordinated to a Placer 2 Lender without the Placer 1 Lender's specific, written consent. Whether or not Placer 2 Lenders might be willing to advance funds, and whether or not some Placer 1 Lenders would agree to terms for such advances, the Trust does not believe it is realistic to believe that a proposal can be made that would be acceptable to all of the Placer 1 Lenders and implemented within a reasonable time.

The Trust made the decision to seek appointment of a receiver for the Placer 1 Loan, and ultimately for the Placer Vineyards Property upon foreclosure. The Trust requested that interested lenders solicit proposals from potential disinterested receivers. Four proposals, resumes and in some cases proposals for compensation were received. These were disseminated via an email, and a summary of the qualifications sent with the monthly mailing to the Placer 1 Lenders. The Trustee received solicitations and information from Beverly N. McFarland of the Beverly Group, Inc., Mark Kagan, Elli M.A. Mills, and John Paxton. Comments and questions were received by the Receiver candidates, responses provided and those responses posted via a Google group as well as on the Trust's website. The Trust ultimately solicited expressions of preference among all of the Direct Lenders and tabulated the results that were received.

A draft of the receivership complaint as well as a motion for the appointment of the receiver was prepared and circulated to interested lenders. After comments were received, the complaint and the receivership motion were filed in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. During the time that the receivership action was being prepared and comments on receivership candidates solicited, the Trustee directed that the pending foreclosure sale be continued from time to time. The current foreclosure sale is scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2008.

The Placer Vineyards receivership action was filed on September 24, 2008 and assigned case no. 2:08-cv-1276. The case was assigned to United States District Judge Kent J. Dawson and United States Magistrate Judge Robert L. Johnston. The District Court issued a summons for each of the individual defendants. The Trust mailed the summons, copy of the Amended Receivership Motion filed on October 2, 2008, a Notice and a Request for Waiver of the Summons. A copy of the complaint was inadvertently omitted from the first mailing and was filed about one week later with the next investor loan statement. A hearing has been scheduled on the receivership motion for December 3, 2008 at 9 o'clock a.m.

### **C. Compass Trust Loan Servicing – Collection of Prepaid Interest**

The Trust is entitled to collect sums from escrows established in the sale to Compass, including \$157,704 on June 15, 2007. Further, Compass collects from Direct Lenders and remits Prepaid Interest to the Trust pursuant to the Plan, including \$156,471.33 on May 11, 2007. The Trust is aware of collections from Borrowers on several notes since Compass last remitted recouped prepaid interest to the Trust. The Trust has requested an accounting of the collected monies from Compass and to date continues to await that accounting, or transmittal of any additional recouped monies. As indicated above, the Trust has sued Compass to receive the monies that were to be collected and remitted pursuant to the terms of the confirmed Plan.

From a report prepared in August 2007, the maximum amount of uncollected Prepaid Interest was \$5,292,567.59 (and again, this amount is before the collection of prepaid interest resulting from the payoff of the Hotel Zoso loan). A number of investors have uncollected Prepaid Interest of only tens or a few hundreds of dollars. It is not now possible for the Trust to estimate the likely collection of Prepaid Interest within the foreseeable future.

In the lawsuit filed by the Trust against Compass USA SPE, LLC, Compass Partners, LLC Adv. No. 08-01066-lbr, concerning disputes over certain escrows, Compass' accounting and failure to collect and remit pre-paid interest, the parties submitted a joint discovery plan to the Court. Compass promised certain documentation, including detailed loan by loan accounting of accounting of collections as well as distributions. The Trust decided not to prosecute formal discovery in reliance upon Compass' promises and the Court scheduled a settlement conference. Despite numerous requests, to date, Compass has failed to provide any of the requested information. After the end of the

quarter, the Court vacated the settlement conference and assigned a new settlement judge. Again, as described above, the foreclosure of the loan to Compass by its lender, Silar Advisors, LLC has an impact on this litigation and is part of the discussion between the Trust and Silar.

Certain servicing rights for particular loans were transferred from Compass to other servicers. Those servicers have worked with the Trust during the loan collection process to obtain information about pre-paid interest in order to properly net pre-paid interest from lenders as loans were collected. This cooperation includes collection of the Fiesta Oak Valley Loan by Debt Acquisition Company of America.

#### **D. USACM Loan Servicing**

The State of Nevada Department of Business in Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending (“MLD”), took post-Effective Date action with respect to licensing of USACM to service loans and the proposed application by Compass to service loans pursuant to the transaction approved by the court in the confirmed Plan. The Trust worked with USACM with respect to the MLD’s order terminating the USACM license. The termination was not untoward, because USACM had ceased servicing any loans at that point. The MLD’s findings were factually and legally inaccurate in many respects, however. The Trust worked directly with the MLD through the State of Nevada Attorney General’s office to ensure that the MLD was not seeking to violate the Confirmation Order or the Plan. Separately, the Trust was aware of and took no position with respect to the MLD orders concerning Compass.

Pursuant to an order of the Bankruptcy Court, the Trust is exempt from licensing in Nevada as a loan servicer or escrow agent. The Trust nevertheless voluntarily reports to MLD with respect to its actions and has asked MLD to advise the Trust of any questions or concerns.

#### **X. SETTLEMENT WITH DTDF**

Confirmation of the Plan did not resolve numerous disputes between USACM and DTDF. Principals of the Trust and DTDF have continued to negotiate disputes remaining between them. After a meeting on March 5, 2008, the Trust and DTDF reached conceptual agreement as to an overall settlement. On March 13, 2008, the Trust filed a motion to approve settlement agreement with DTDF in the bankruptcy court. The proposed settlement was set forth in a letter agreement signed by the parties.

In summary, the parties’ settlement provided:

- The Trust and DTDF split certain reserves held by USACM on a 60/40 basis;
- DTDF is allowed a \$128 million unsecured claim in the USACM Estate;

- DTDF hires Diamond McCarthy LLP to pursue certain DTDF Litigation Claims, that will generally be prosecuted jointly with similar claims asserted by the Trust through Diamond McCarthy;
- DTDF and the Trust will jointly share proceeds of litigation claims, including those DTDF Litigation Claims prosecuted by Diamond McCarthy, on a 50-50 basis for the first \$20 million of recoveries, and then DTDF receiving 35% of all recoveries thereafter;
- DTDF, by reason of its allowed general unsecured claim, will share in recoveries from non-litigation claims and/or assets of the Trust on a pro-rata basis with all other allowed general unsecured creditor claims;
- DTDF and the Trust share proceeds of the \$58 million note made by USAIP on an equal basis; and
- DTDF and the Trust release each other.

The compromise was the subject of notice to those parties entitled to post-confirmation notice and considered at a hearing on March 25, 2008. The Bankruptcy Court asked that additional notice be provided and that the deadline for objections be extended to March 31, 2008. No objections were received and on April 1, 2008, the bankruptcy court entered its Order Granting Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement with USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC. Reserves of approximately \$5 million were released by USACM – 60% to the Trust and 40% to DTDF. DTDF engaged Diamond McCarthy as its special counsel and Diamond McCarthy filed causes of action on behalf of DTDF before the expiration of the two-year tolling period on April 13, 2008.

In connection with the DTDF settlement, the Trust received \$3,137,112.25 from sums held back on account of the DTDF dispute.

## **XI. TRUST FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

A Trust financial statement showing the status of the Trust's finances as of September 30, 2008, has been provided to the Oversight Committee.